

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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EB-07 IO-13 AID-05 /081 W
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FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3036
INFO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

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MONROVIA ALSO FOR USAID

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, SL
SUBJECT: GOSL CABINET CHANGES

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. PRESIDENT'S OFFICE MAY 1 ANNOUNCED FOLLOWING CHANGES
IN CABINET AND GOSL STRUCTURE:

A. MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC PLANNING MERGED
INTO MINISTRY OF FINANCE;

B. MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
MERGED INTO MINISTRY OF EDUCATION;

C. N.A.P. BUCK, FORMERLY MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT AND
ECONOMIC PLANNING, NAMED MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND
BROADCASTING VICE A.B.M. KAMARA;

D. A.B.M. KAMARA, FORMERLY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND
BROACASTING, NAMED MINISTER OF WORKDS VICE L.A.M. BREWAH;

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E. BREWAH AND S.A.T. KOROMA, FORMERLY MINISTER OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND RURAL DEV)90.3,5 (SINCE SWITCH TWO WEEKS BEFORE IN WHICH HE EXCHANGED POSITIONS WITH S.A. FOFANAH WHO NOW MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES), DROPPED FROM CABINET, END UNCLASSIFIED.

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2. SHIFT IS THIRD IN SERIES OF SMALL SHUFFLES OVER PAST SEVERAL WEEKS, FOLLOWING S.A.T. KOROMA-S.A. FOFANAHA SWITCH AND TRANSFER OF S.A. KEBE FROM DEPUTY MIN AGRICULTURE TO DEP MIN TRADE AND INDUSTRY (WHICH HAS OCCURED BUT TO BEST OF EMBASSY'S KNOWLEDGE HAS NOT YET BEEN OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED). RUMORS PERSIST OF NUMEROUS ADDITIONAL CHANGES TO COME. MAY 1 CHANGE HAS SET OFF AVALANCHE OF COMMENTS AMONG POLITICALLY KNOWLEDGABLE SIERRA LEONEANS, INCLUDING CABINET MEMBERS, THAT IT PRESAGES EARLY PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS (NOW THAT PRESIDENT SAFELY RE-INAUGURATED FOR NEW FIVE YEAR TERM) AND PROBABLE ADDITIONAL REDUCGIONS IN SIZE OF CABINET.

3. MAIN REASONS FOR MAY 1 CHANGES APPEAR TO BE:

A. TO REMOVE S.A.T. KOROMA FROM CABINET WHICH PRESIDENT KNOWN TO HAVE WANTED TO DO FOR HIS EGREGIOUS CORRUPTION,

B. MOVE BUCK FROM DEVELOPMENT WHERE HE HAS PERFORMED WITH SINGULAR LACK OF DISTINCTION AND PLACE MINISTRY UNDER VICE PRESIDENT KOROMA WHO CONCURRENTLY MINISTER OF FINANCE,

C. DROP BREWAH WHOSE PERFORMANCE LACKLUSTER, IN PART DUE ILLNESS, AND WHO ALSO KNOWN HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN SIGNIFICANT CORRUPTION, AND

D. BEGIN PROCESS OF REDUCING SIZE OF OVERBLOWN GOSL CABINET. PRIOR RECENT SACKINGS AND CHANGES, 45 OF PRESENT 96 MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT HELD RANK OF MINISTER, DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINISTER OF STATE, NOT INCLUDING PRESIDENT WHO CONCURRENTLY MINISTER OF DEFENSE. MAY 1 LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CHANGES ALSO MAKE SENSE OF S.A. FOFANAH-S.A.T. KOROMA SWITCH OF TWO WEEKS AGO WHICH NOW OBVIOUSLY WAS PRELUDE TO KOROMA SACKING BY REMOVING MINISTRY FROM UNDER NEATH HIM, OBVIOUSLY AN IMPOSSIBLITY WHEN HE HELD KEY AGRICULTURE PORTFOLOIO.

4. ANALYSIS OF MAY 1 SACKINGS SUGGESTS PRESIDENT ALSO KEPT TRIBAL CONSIDERATIONS IN MIND IN REACHING DECISION,

SINCE TWO LOSERS ARE NEATLY DIVIDED INTO ONE TEMNE (KOROMA)
AND ONE MENDE (BREWAH).

SAMUELS

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